

Trinity United Methodist Church

Worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Ryan Gephart, pastor

Church Office 224-2815

Cell Phone: (570)850-6637

Trinity United Methodist Church
434 E. Main St.
Roaring Spring, PA 16673

Trinity Tidings

Roaring Spring, PA 16673

August/September 2024

Grace & Peace to you from our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ:

The following is a Press Release from The Center for Faith & Justice

The Center for Faith and Justice is thrilled to announce the inaugural cohort of Preaching Justice Fellows for 2024-25. In the coming year, 26 preachers from across North America, representing diverse Christian traditions, will work together to learn what it means to preach justice. We trust their work will enrich the Faith and Justice community and many more communities beyond.

Preaching Justice Fellows for 2024-2025: **Andrea Ackermann**, Christ City Church (Washington, DC); **Jay Augustine**, St. Joseph AME Church (Durham, NC); **Emmy Brett**, Park Slope United Methodist Church (Brooklyn, NY); **Herbert Brisbon**, Dillard University (New Orleans, LA); **Dayna Carr**, Glenwood Together InFaith (Greensboro, NC); **Andrea Clark-Chambers**, Restoration Community Church (Tulsa, OK); **Beryl Cowthran**, Grace Hill Church (Shreveport, LA); **Ryan Gephart**, Trinity United Methodist Church (Roaring Spring, PA); **Joshua Jalandoon**, City Church (San Francisco, CA); **Erina Kim-Eubanks**, Bethel Community Presbyterian Church (San Leandro, CA); **Rothea Kornelius**, First Presbyterian Church (Elgin, IL); **Robert Lowry**, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church (Little Rock, AR); **Jasmine McDade-Geiger**, New Jerusalem Church (Tulsa, OK); **Denise McLeod**, All Nations Presbyterian Church (Miami, FL); **Cara Meredith**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Oakland, CA); **Jonathan Paredes**, Salem UCC Rohrestown (Lancaster, PA); **September Penn**, Angeles Mesa Presbyterian Church (Los Angeles, CA); **Natalie Perkins**, Middle Collegiate Church (New York, NY); **Cynthia Riggin**, Macalester Plymouth United Church (St. Paul, MN); **Greg Smith**, Advent Lutheran Church (Arlington, Texas); **Sally Jo Snyder**, Consumer Health Coalition (Pittsburgh, PA); **Maxwell Staley**, St. Stephen's Episcopal School (Harrisburg, PA); **Bri-anne Swan**, East End United

Regional Ministry (Toronto, ONT); **Alexis Tardy**, Black Women of Faith, Inc. (Indianapolis, IN); **Hannah Thom**, Denver Community Church (Denver, CO); **Brian Tillman**, North Georgia Conference (Atlanta, GA).

I am very excited for this opportunity and I am honored to have been one of twenty-six preachers selected in North America for this fellowship. This fellowship is through The Center for Faith and Justice which offers programs in theological education and spiritual formation for individuals, congregations, and other faith communities. All Expenses except for \$100 are covered by a Lilly Endowment Grant including all expenses for training in Minneapolis, MN (September 12-14, 2024) and San Francisco, CA (January 30-February 1, 2025). There are monthly trainings online plus cohort groups meetings for the other months from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 including free membership to the Faith & Justice Network.

As one excited to continue to grow in his faith with a congregation that does the same.

~ Pastor Ryan



OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS: Judy Bowers, Roger and Kay Bowser, Tanna Byler, Lorie Davis, Marsha Demchak, Bud Evans, Glenda Fowler, Mike Galbraith, Ione Hammaker, Jeff Hetrick, Norm Hostetter, Ruth Imler, Pastor Evie Madison, Barbara Mingle, Bob & Doris Musselman, Barry & Connie Musselman, Dee Rodland, Mike Seiler & Family, Gary Shank, Katlyn Wren Somogyi, Christine Thompson, Bob & Dorothy VanNatta, Claudia Weise

Anniversaries:

August

- 2. Jay & Lisa Ebersole
- Neil & Christi Gartland
- 18. Jake & Melanie Goins
- 24. Dusty & Kelly Bassler



September

- 16. Gary & Sandy Polchito

Birthdates:

August

- 4. Chintan Patel
- 5. Erin Smith
- 6. Sandy Polchito
- 15. Sandy Garber
- 23. Jesse Muthler, Alyssa Reed, Kerstin White
- 28. Gary Polchito
- 31. Ken Pote



September

- 3. Carole Hetrick
- 9. Amy Acker Knisley
- 11. Margaret Weise
- 13. Pat Muthler, Doug Mingle
- 18. Ruth Imler
- 20. Noah Muthler
- 22. Ryan Gephart
- 26. Jerry Green, Charles (Bud) Evans

Porch Pantry = Food Distribution

The porch pantry will no longer exist outside at our main entrance due to misuse and vandalism. Jerry Green and committee have decided to use a different approach that can be monitored. Once a month, food will be handed out to those in need. The first distribution will be held on August 7th from 3:00-5:00 in our Fellowship Hall.

Update to Project Renovations since January 4, 2024

Individual category giving:

- a) "Improvement Fund" general weekly giving since the beginning of the year: \$2,370.00
- b) Parking Lot: \$160
- c) Accessibility: \$500
- d) Parsonage: \$810

The parking lot/alley: \$4,093.00 by Mattas Group

The parsonage new gas furnace: \$8,131.00 by Knisely & Sons

The parsonage attic mold: \$4,350.00 by Raabe Restoration, LLC.

The parsonage roof repair: \$500 by Tim & Ben Smith

The Fellowship Hall ceiling issues: \$550 by Raabe Restoration, LLC.

Donations to these projects would be greatly appreciated. You can mark your envelope or check with "Improvements"

Free Summer Lunch Program

(all meals are in person)

June 3, 2024 – August 16, 2024
Monday – Friday: 12:00 – 1:00 pm



Trinity United Methodist Church

August & September 2024 Sermon Topics & Scriptures

12th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 11: "Do Not Let the Sun Go Down on Your Anger" (Ephesians 4:25—5:2 & John 6:35, 41-51)

13th Sunday after Pentecost & Blessing of The Backpacks ~ Sunday, August 18: Doug Mingle, Certified Lay Speaker, Preaching

14th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 25: Your Questions/Topics Sermon Series: "How to Do Better Daily Avoiding Sin? ~ Put on the Armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-20 & John 6:56-69)

15th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 1: Your Questions/Topics Sermon Series: "How to Overcome Anger? ~ Be Quick to Listen, Slow to Speak, & Slow to Anger" (James 1:17-27 & Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

16th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 8: Your Questions/Topics Sermon Series: "How Do We Avoid Negativity & Gossip? ~ Avoid Partiality, Show Mercy Daily, & Do Good Works" (Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 & James 2:1-17)

17th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 15: Your Questions/Topics Sermon Series: "What is the Role of a Christian in The Hostile Political Areana, i.e.: How to Choose or What to Support in an Election? ~ Look to Wisdom & What One Does with Their Words" (Proverbs 1:20-33 & James 3:1-12)

18th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 22: Your Questions/Topics Sermon Series: "How Do We Deal with Bitterness & Envy; How Do We Forgive? ~ Gentleness, Watch Out for Coveting, & Resist Evil by Being Servant to All & Welcoming the Young" (James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a & Mark 9:30-37)

19th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 29: Surprise the World Sermon Series: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People ~ Bless (Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 & James 5:13-20)

A Time for the Young at Heart Presenter in Worship
August & September 2024

Schedule

August 11: Pastor Ryan

August 18: Kate Muthler (Blessings of the Backpacks)

August 25: Doug Mingle

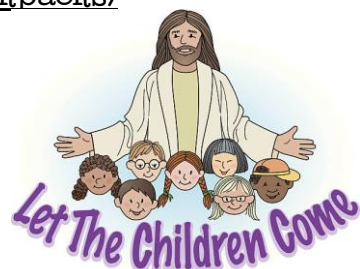
September 1: Pastor Ryan

September 8: Pastor Ryan

September 15: Kate Muthler

September 22: Doug Mingle

September 29: Misty Gephart



Youth/Young Adults (YPM ~ Young People's Ministry) 2024

Youth & Young Adults (YPM) will meet on the **Third Sunday** of the Month from **5pm to 7pm** for September, October, and November 2024. We will not meet in December. All Youth & Young Adults are invited to attend this time of fellowship.

Fall Youth & Young Adult Schedule (YPM) - Sept., Oct., & Nov. 2024
Sunday, September 15th, 2024 ~ 5pm to 7pm Pizza Dinner & Disc Golf Outing (Disc Golf Course Location To Be Determined)
Sunday, October 20th, 2024 ~ 5pm to 7pm Cony's Kitchen Dinner & Fellowship
Sunday, November 17th, 2024 ~ 5pm to 7pm Subs for Dinner & Ping Pong Double Elimination Tournament in the Youth Rooms



Men's Fellowship will resume in September.

Men's fellowship welcomes all men of Trinity Church to join them as they fellowship on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. They will meet on September 10th at 6PM in the church's Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to come any time you can.

Women's Fellowship - Upcoming Dates

Women's Fellowship is inviting you to join them this fall. They usually meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

The ladies will have their next get together at Sandy Polchito's home on Sunday, September 15th at 2:00. This will be the annual picnic/white elephant auction. Be prepared to eat some delicious food and have fun while raising money for a good cause.

Dates to mark on your calendar:

October 1, November 5, December 3



Town Hall – Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 7pm

There will be a Town Hall about the future of the United Methodist Church and Trinity United Methodist Church of Roaring Spring, PA. It will be at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. All are invited to attend.

Altoona District Conference to be Held Sunday, September 22, 2024 @ 3pm at Christ Community UMC, Altoona, PA

Under Section VIII. District Conferences, Paragraph 42, Article I. of *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*; and Paragraph 658 of *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*; and with an enabling resolution (Resolution #6 ~ “Five District Plan; Moving Forward in Mission and Ministry”) approved by the Susquehanna Annual Conference meeting May 30–June 1, 2024; a District Conference has been called. The enabling resolution from Annual Conference stated: “**Be it further resolved** that each new district will hold a District Conference in the Fall of 2024 in order to complete district nominations and to attend to other matters as needed.”

Our Altoona District Conference Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Lillian Smith, under authority of Paragraph 658 of *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*, has set the date, time, and place of our District Conference. ***Our Altoona District Conference will be Sunday, September 22, 2024 3:30pm at Christ Community UMC, 5715 Roselawn Ave., Altoona, PA.*** You are invited to join in worship, celebration, & holy conferencing as we organize to five districts of the Susquehanna Conference! We will worship together, celebrate the ministry in our District, establish a new name for the District, affirm our District Committees, & put “*hands to the plow*” as we move out in mission & ministry within our communities.

Registration will be coming soon for your District Conference through your District Office. All clergy and laity (especially Lay Representatives) are strongly encouraged to attend your District Conference.



Youth & Children’s Sunday School restarts in the fall on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 10:45am. Classes for Youth & Children’s Sunday School will run till Sunday, May 18, 2025 and then we will be on break for the summer of 2025. Misty Gephart will be the head Children’s Sunday School teacher and Pastor Ryan will be the head Youth Sunday School teacher. We need **ten** volunteers who will give one Sunday a month to being Misty’s Safe Sanctuary Assistant and Pastor Ryan’s Safe Sanctuary Assistant.

The following are the needs:

- First, Second, Third, & Fourth Sunday of the Month Children’s Assistant (you would sign-up for one of the Sundays)
- First, Second, Third, & Fourth Sunday of the Month Youth Assistant (you would sign-up for one of the Sundays)
- Fifth Sunday of the Month Children’s Assistant & Substitute for when Misty is away (as of now the Substitute Teacher Sundays are November 3, 2024; December 15, 2024; & January 5, 2025) (you would sign-up to be the assistant when there is a 5th Sunday & you would teach the class when Misty is away)
- Fifth Sunday of the Month Youth Assistant & Substitute for when Pastor Ryan is away (as of now the Substitute Teacher Sundays are November 3, 2024; December 15, 2024; & January 5, 2025) (you would sign-up to be the assistant when there is a 5th Sunday & you would teach the class when Pastor Ryan is away)

There will be no Sunday School on December 29, 2024 (Sunday after Christmas) and April 20, 2025 (Easter Sunday).

Sign-Up Sheet for these Ten Volunteer Spots will be in the back of the Church starting Sunday, August 11, 2024. We need to have two volunteers each Sunday as Misty & Pastor Ryan cannot count as two adults for safe sanctuaries as they are married. Please sign-up so that we can have Sunday School for our Children & Youth this School Year.

Pastor's Bible Study Updated Schedule Starting August 28, 2024 through

Bible Study will restart on *Wednesday, August 28th, 2024* for our Fall 2024 & Winter 2025 Sessions (*Spring Session for April & May 2025 is To Be Determined*). Anyone is welcome to attend at any time, for any and/or all the sessions. Additionally, we are planning on having two small groups study the session #2 topic ~ more to come!

Session #1: Finishing J. Ellsworth Kalas' book *Beatitudes from the Back Side: A Different Take on What It Means to be Blessed*

Wednesday, August 28: Chapter 9 of the Book (Read Matthew 5:9)

Wednesday, September 4: Chapter 10 of the Book (Read Matthew 5:10-12) & Chapter 11 of the Book (*end Session #1*)

Wednesday, September 11: Pastor Chairing Altoona DCOM Meeting

Wednesday, September 18: 9:30am Ladies' Coffee & Conversation

Wednesday, September 25: Pastor @ Training

Session #2 plus October Small Group Experiment "The Five Habits of Highly Missional People": September 29, 2024 Sermon Start to October/December 2024 ~ Bless, Eat, Listen, Learn, Sent

Please plan to join one of the two new groups or the Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group to grow deeper in your faith! More on Small Groups coming in September!

Wednesday, October 2: Habit #1: Bless

Wednesday, October 9: Habit #2: Eat

Wednesday, October 16: 9:30am Ladies' Coffee & Conversation

Wednesday, October 23: Habit #3: Listen

Wednesday, October 30: Habit #4: Learn



Bishops Appoint Rev. Dr. Lillian Smith Conference Superintendent of the Altoona Area

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Steiner Ball have appointed a new Conference Superintendent effective July 1, 2024 to the Altoona District. Our new Superintendent brings a wealth of knowledge and a commitment to effective ministry in the United Methodist Church with clergy, laity, and local churches.

The Rev. Dr. Lillian Smith has been appointed to the Altoona District. Dr. Smith has held positions throughout the General Church and in local churches. Since 2016, Lillian has been serving as pastor of Cheverly United Methodist Church, Cheverly, MD. Lillian has also served as Pastor at St. Matthew's UMC of Valley Forge, PA and as Lead Pastor at the historic Tindley Temple in Philadelphia, PA.

Lillian served as the Director, Connectional Ministries and Executive Director of Congregation Transformation with the Eastern PA Conference. While on staff, part of her portfolio was working with "High Potential Churches," "Large Church Initiative" and "Next Level Ministries."

Lillian has served as Associate General Secretary, Division on Ministries with Young People with the General Board of Discipleship. She also held the position of Director, Ministries with Women and Persons of Color with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Lillian is the author of *Words to Live By: Wisdom Keys that Can Change Your Life*. She recently contributed a chapter to the book: *I'm Black, I'm Christian, I'm Methodist*. Her most recent book is *Rooted Again: Re-Establishing Forgotten or Abandoned connections with God and God's Kingdom Mandate*.

She received her Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and her Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary. Lillian will be on loan to the Susquehanna Conference from the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

NEJ REDUCES EPISCOPAL AREAS TO SIX

By John Coleman, DCA staff

Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference reduced its episcopal areas from nine to six, after hearing an extensive report and approving a motion from its Committee on Episcopacy. In the new configuration, eight annual conferences will each share a bishop and two conferences will each have one bishop (*with West Virginia sharing a Bishop with the SEJ*). The decision was affirmed by a 123 to 19 vote. The new episcopal areas, comprise these conferences:

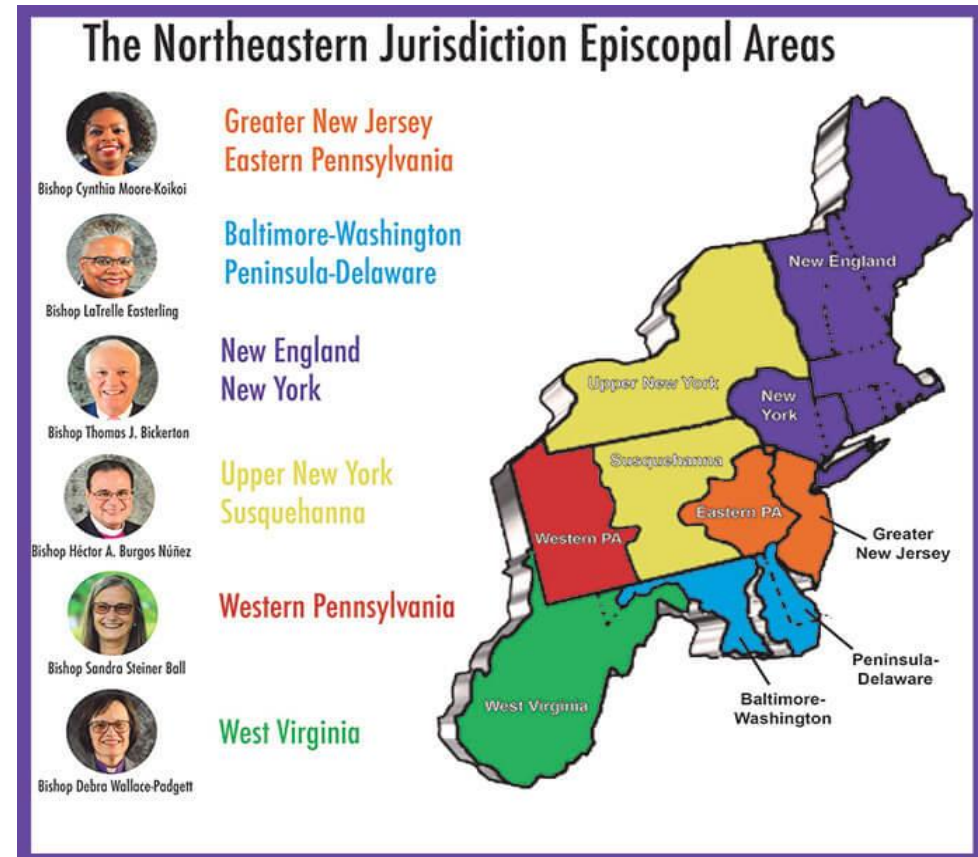
- Baltimore–Washington and Peninsula–Delaware
- Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey
- New York and New England
- Susquehanna and Upper New York
- Western Pennsylvania
- West Virginia (*this area will share a Bishop with a conference from the Southeastern Jurisdiction – it will be the Holston Conference in Tennessee*)

Since 2022, the Baltimore–Washington and Peninsula–Delaware Conferences have shared a bishop, and Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey have also shared a bishop. Meanwhile, supervision of the Susquehanna Conference has been shared by the bishops of the Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia conferences. Currently, the jurisdiction is served by seven bishops, including Bishop John Schol, who retires at this conference, and Bishop Peggy Johnson, who will return to retirement status.

Those retirements leave five active bishops. The 2024 General Conference voted in May to apportion six bishops to the Northeastern Jurisdiction and varying numbers of bishops to the other four jurisdictions, approving a recommendation from the UMC’s Interjurisdictional Episcopacy Committee.

General Conference also allowed jurisdictions to assign active bishops who are willing to transfer across jurisdictional lines. While no current bishops were able or willing to transfer, the NEJ agreed to share a bishop with the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

The NEJ Committee on Episcopacy, led by Judi Kenaston, worked many hours before and during the Jurisdictional Conference, aided by research and recommendations by the NEJ Boundaries Committee, to configure the new episcopal areas for the 2024– 2028 quadrennium. They also explored possible adjustments if the 2028 General Conference requires the NEJ and other jurisdictions to further reduce their number of episcopal areas due to financial and missional reasons.





Bishop Burgos-Núñez will be assigned to the Susquehanna Conference UMC

Bishop Héctor Antonio Burgos-Núñez will be assigned to the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church starting September 1, 2024.

He will be shared with the Upper New York Annual Conference as part of the new episcopal area configuration.

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez was elected to the episcopacy by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference on November 4, 2022. He is the first Hispanic-Latino bishop in the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez holds an M.Div. from the School of Theology at Drew University in Madison, NJ, a bachelor's in business administration with a concentration in Management and Strategic Marketing from the University of Puerto Rico, and a graduate certificate in Information Systems Technology. At the time of his election to the episcopacy, Bishop Burgos served as District Superintendent of the Central District of the Greater New Jersey Conference.

Bishop Burgos-Núñez served pastorates at West Creek United Methodist Church 2004-2005, First United Methodist Church, Iglesia Casa de Esperanza 2005-2009, and Oasis United Methodist Church 2009-2014. He also served as Director of Worship and Urban Ministries 2014, Executive Director of NextGen Ministries of GNJ 2016-2018, and Director of Connectional Ministries 2015-2019 for the Greater New Jersey Conference.

March 26, 2025 and October Small Groups Experiment

No Bible Study in November due to Pastor's Vacation, Various Meetings & Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday, November 20: 9:30am Ladies' Coffee & Conversation

Wednesday, December 4: Habit #5: Sent

Wednesday, December 11: Conclusion: Discipleship, Nurture, & Accountability (end Session #2)

Wednesday, December 18: 9:30am Ladies' Coffee & Conversation

Wednesday, December 25: Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, January 1: Happy New Year!

Wednesday, January 8: Pastor on Vacation

Wednesday, January 15: 9:30am Ladies' Coffee & Conversation

Session #3: Studying Rueben P. Job's book Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living

Wednesday, January 22: Preface and Introduction

Wednesday, January 29: Pastor at Training

Wednesday, February 5: Chapter 1 of the Book

Wednesday, February 12: Chapter 2 of the Book

Wednesday, February 19: 9:30am Ladies' Coffee & Conversation

Wednesday, February 26: Pastor at Susquehanna Conference BOOM

Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday (Service at 7pm)

Wednesday, March 12: Chapter 3 of the Book

Wednesday, March 19: 9:30am Ladies' Coffee & Conversation

Wednesday, March 26: Pastor at Susquehanna Conference BOOM

April & May 2025 Schedule To Be Determined